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Photo: Ignacio De Amo

Congressman Bob Filner Announces \$8.9 Million Grant For Andrade, Calexico, Otay Mesa, And Tecate Border Crossings

Also Proposes 'Cesar Chavez Post Office' in San Diego

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Bob Filner has announced that an \$8,859,000 U.S. Department of Transportation grant has been awarded to make substantial improvements to four commercial vehicle border crossings in California.

"California's border economy is already thriving," said Filner. "These new improvements will make the border-crossing process more efficient for the thousands of commercial vehicles entering the U.S. and for the customs agents who inspect them. This grant means more jobs, improved safety and commerce, and a better quality of life for the residents of San Diego and Imperial counties."

The Federal Highway Administration Border Infrastructure grant will be used to construct Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facilities in Tecate and Andrade and to make improvements

to the existing facilities in Otay Mesa and Calexico.

Congressman Bob Filner has introduced legislation to rename San Diego's Southeastern Post Office at 2777 Logan Avenue the "Cesar E. Chavez Post Office."

"In San Diego, and across our nation, the name Cesar Chavez symbolizes dignity and devotion to equality and human rights," said Filner. "Naming our post office after this heroic American is a small token of the appreciation we all feel for his contributions to human dignity. Cesar Chavez dedicated his life to fighting for human rights in our country. In the 50s and 60s, when minorities were given little to no respect or rights, Cesar Chavez cleared the path to equality."

In the early 50s, after fighting in World War II, Cesar Chavez began his involvement in baffling racial

and economic discrimination against Chicanos. In the early 60s, he founded the National Farm Workers Association where he organized many peaceful demonstrations to bring attention to the farm worker's conditions. In 1968, Senator Robert Kennedy visited Cesar Chavez in California after Chavez lead a 25 day fast. Kennedy called Cesar "one of the heroic figures of our time."

Cesar continued to organize boycotts and strikes around the world against table grape growers in California. His efforts paid off in the 70s when legislation to help agricultural workers was established.

Cesar Chavez is remembered today for his continual efforts and dedication to justice and equality. His slogan, "Si de puede!" or "Yes, we can!" is now known worldwide.